March 3, 2020

**Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Preparedness**

The Pittsford Area School District is closely monitoring information related to the novel coronavirus 2019, which is commonly referred to as COVID-19. At the present time, there are no known cases of COVID-19 in Michigan and only a limited number of cases within the United States. Despite this, Pittsford is proactively working to be prepared should cases of COVID-19 emerge in Michigan and, more specifically, Hillsdale County.

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has indicated that the virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading from person-to-person in a manner similar to the viruses that cause the common cold and influenza. This means that the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus. The CDC recommends the following everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

As is the case with any illness Pittsford, following the guidance of the CDC, requests that parents/guardians keep any children home who are demonstrating signs of illness. Symptoms of COVID-19 include: fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Additionally, it is recommended that you contact your child’s healthcare provider for additional guidance.

Pittsford Area Schools maintains a facilities maintenance plan that includes routine cleaning and disinfecting of school surfaces. Despite this, students and staff are still encouraged to follow the CDC’s preventative actions listed above.

In the event that COVID-19 reaches Hillsdale County, Pittsford will work closely with the Hillsdale County Health Department to respond in a manner that is respectful to the individual rights of our students and families, including the right to confidentiality, while also working to prevent the spread of illness in accordance with applicable law and administrative rules. This may include temporarily limiting the attendance of students with a communicable disease at school and school activities. In Michigan, any exclusion from school due to the presence of a communicable disease (beyond exclusion for an initial determination as to the presence of a communicable disease by a physician or local health official), must be made by the Hillsdale County Health Department.

Please remind your children to practice the everyday preventative measures that are described above, and encourage their practice by doing the same.

For additional information about COVID-19, please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/